

whether we regard it as a centre of union to men of sober and reasonable piety, who, in the arrangement and prosecution of their beneficent schemes for the advancement of the Gospel, will be led by duty and prudence to this high authority, for information, direction, and assistance. By the light of this new star, the wise and the virtuous, who in singleness of heart engage in the service of Christ, will be anxious to shape their course: to this point they will look for instruction in the original conception of their plans, the preparation of means, and the choice of instruments: and here they will find their best security against the danger of wasting the energies of zeal and of talent in fruitless exertions, from want of concert and regularity in their proceedings, or of consistency and precision in their views. To such *unity of principle, of action, and of object*, we have traced the successes of the Primitive Church, and from the return of the same spirit we may expect the renewal of those victories, which first shook the empire of darkness, and the consummation of that triumph, which shall effect its final extinction.

The general result of these observations may be comprised in a few words. The *early* Christians endeavoured